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nostic importance. One illustration, from a number which might be given, will serve to show how narrow is the path which the author treads. Davidson and Gray had remarked on the importance among the Scotch exports of coal (in the modern sense), which appear even in the sixteenth century as the "common ballast of emptie Schippis," and which was in the seventeenth century the basis of a highly organized trade. Rooseboom recognizes that the coal trade was in the seventeenth century the most important branch of Scotch commerce with the Netherlands, but gives practically no information about the production, the marketing and the consumption of a ware which in Scotch commerce became prominent so early and which was destined later, in Jevons' phrase, to become the power that moves the world.

The book is handsomely printed, and is provided with a good index.

CLIVE DAY.

Yale University.

The Japanese Empire and Its Economic Conditions. By JOSEPH D'AUTREMER. Translated from the French. (New York: Imported by Scribner's Sons. 1910. Pp. 319.)

This is a well-padded volume. By means of thick paper, wide margins, spacing, rambling lists, and sprawling tables, a moderate amount of material has been whipped up into an imposing book. The writer is lecturer at the School of Oriental Languages in Paris, and has first-hand knowledge of his subject. He has served up a great quantity of exact information, touching the geography, topography, geology, race origins, agriculture, forests, mines, industries, arts, railways, commerce, government and finances of Japan. He is concise in statement and strictly objective in attitude. He has no private point of view, conjures up no pictures, and leaves no dominant impression. His pages are stiff with statistics, and so replete with information that the book is to be consulted rather than read.

There are several errors. The railway capital in pounds sterling is printed at just ten times the actual figure. Careless proof reading has placed the arrival of the Jesuits in the tenth century instead of the sixteenth. "Millions" of pilgrims are said to ascend Fuji in August. On page 81, we read "The land yields all that it can yield because *it is poor and its capabilities are very limited.*" Twenty pages further on he writes in another vein, "In compari-

son with the most densely populated countries of Europe, Belgium, for instance, this number (353 persons to the square mile) is insignificant, Japan being capable of containing a much larger population." It is statistically untrue that "Japan increases every year in a manner unknown in Europe, even in Germany and Russia." The death-rate in Japan is 20 per 1000, the birth-rate 33+, natural annual increase 1 1/3 per cent.

The translation leaves something to be desired. We meet with "quantities of villages," "The Japanese do not surrender themselves to this class of fishing," "Shadow of Parliamentarism" for "appearance of Parliamentarism." Nevertheless, in addition to presenting quantities of minute information (e g. describing six varieties of Japanese mushrooms, 30 varieties of useful woods, and 19 kinds of lacquer), the author abounds in sound and impartial judgments. His appraisal of Japanese family life, military spirit, literacy, commercial morality, government, industrial prospects, and trade future tally with the conclusions of an independent observer.

EDWARD ALSWORTH ROSS.

The University of Wisconsin.

Wirtschaftsstudien aus Südamerika, speziell über Chile. By RUDOLF DUNKER. (Leipzig: Duncker and Humblot. 1910. Pp. 200.)

This monograph of two hundred pages devoted chiefly to the financial, banking and monetary history and conditions of Chili, is based upon four years of experience in connection with banking establishments in that country. The author gives us, with a wealth of technical detail, the history of Chilean industry since 1904, including a full account of the speculations and paper money issues of the boom period of 1905-1907, and ending in the crisis of 1907. In the history of the fluctuations of foreign exchange during this period, ample explanation is given why all foreign trade is a highly speculative proposition.

A section is devoted to the organization of the saltpeter market, including an explanation of the contracts between producers and dealers, an account of various combinations, and a statement of the financial aid rendered the industry by the government. Public finance is interestingly dealt with, and the data offered afford a mine of illustration for university classes studying that subject. Chili has a chronic deficit in her budget, which is as chronically